

Message Text

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41
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5907

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S E C R E T KUWAIT 3687

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR MASS KU

SUBJ: IHAWK MISSILE SALE: RADAR COMPATIBILITY AND EGYPTIAN ADVISORS'
ATTENDANCE AT COMPATIBILITY TESTS

REFS: A) MICOM 041400Z AUG 75 SUBJ: AN/TSQ-73 AND AN/TPS-32 INTERFACE
WITH IHAWK (NOTAL), B) MICOM 211550Z JUL 76 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER DATED JULY 26 FROM MINDEF UNDERSEC
AL-KHAMIS CONCERNING PROBLEM OF AN/TPS-321 RADAR COMPATIBILITY WITH
AN/TSQ-73 IHAWK COMMAND AND COORDINATION SYSTEM. LETTER INDIRECTLY
HAS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON QUESTION OF EGYPTIAN ADVISORS' ROLE IN KUWAIT
'S
IMPLEMENTATION OF IHAWK SYSTEM AND THEIR ATTENDANCE AT COMPATIBILITY
TESTS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUG 16 IN US.

2. UNDERSEC'S LETTER SUGGESTS GOK EXPECTS THAT "AMERICAN SIDE"
SHOULD EQUIP TSQ-73 WITH AUTOMATIC TRIDIMENSIONAL CLUTTER MAPPER, PRE

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SUMABLY WITHOUT COST, AS PART OF IHAWK SALES PACKAGE. SUBSTANTIVE
PORTION OF LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT
TOOK PLACE WITH THE LITTON COMPANY TEAM DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 29-30,
1976, WHEN I KUWAIT, IT WAS FOUND OUT THAT PROPER CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE RADAR STATIONS AND COMMAND AND CONROL SYSTEM REQUIRES THAT
THE CONNECTING CIRCUITS CONTAINED IN COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM

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EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH CLUTTER MAPPER CIRCUITS AND THAT

THE DESIGN AND TYPE OF THE CLUTTER MAPPER UNITS VARY ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF RADAR SET AND THE METHOD OF OPERATING IT. SINCE RADAR AN/TPS-32 DEPENDS ON THE IDEA OF RADAR BEAM SCAN TO MEASURE THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF THE DISCOVERED OBJECTIVES, THE CLUTTER MAPPER CIRCUITS IN THE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM EQUIPMENT MUST BE DIMENSIONAL AND MUST BE SO DESIGNED AS TO BE ABLE TO OPERATE WITH THIS RADAR. WHEN CONTRACTING FOR THE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM EQUIPMENT (TSQ-73) THE AMERICAN SIDE STATED THAT THERE ARE NO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES FOR IMPLEMENTING CONNECTING THE SYTEM WITH THE RADAR STATIONS (AN/TPS-32) AND FOR THE EFFECT OF THE TYPE OF THE CLUTTER MAPPER CIRCUITS ON IMPLEMENTING THIS CONNECTION. WE ARE OF OPINION THAT YOU ASK YOUR AUTHORITIES TO CONFIRM THAT THE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM (TSQ-73) IS EQUIPPED WITH TRIDIMENSIONAL CLUTTER MAPPER CIRCUITS THAT IT CAN OPERATE WITH THE RADAR (TPS-32). END QUOTE.

3. AS WE UNDERSTAND THE FACTS, AT TIME OF ORIGINAL GOK PURCHASE OF TPS-32 RADARS (THROUGH COMMERCIAL RATHER THAN FMS SALES), GOK REQUESTED, AND WAS GIVEN ASSURANCE, THAT TPS-32 WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH TSQ-73 COMMAND AND COORDINATION SYSTEM PROVIDED WITH IHAWK MISSILES (FYI. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO GOK IN EMBASSY LETTER. END FYI) IN FACT, SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE INDICATED LIKELIHOOD THESE TWO SYSTEMS WOULD NOT BE COMPATIBLE (REF A) UNLESS THEY WERE COLLOCATED, WHICH WAS NOT ORIGINAL GOK INTENTION. HOWEVER, EVEN UNDER THESE CONDITIONS WHICH GOK ACCEPTS, BECAUSE OF THIS DESERT ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM OF CLUTTER STILL REMAINS AND PREVENTS ACCURATE TARGET ACQUISITION.

4. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON JUNE 29-30, 1976 BETWEEN LITTON CO. TEAM AND MINDEF EXPORTS, GOK BECAME CONVINCED THAT THE INTRODUCTION INTO THIS SYTEM OF AN AUTOMATIC TRIDIMENSIONAL CLUTTER MAPPER WAS ESSENTIAL. (PURPOSE OF CLUTTER MAPPER, WHICH IS PRESENTLY NOT PART OF TPS-32, IS TO ELIMINATE FALSE TARGET REPORTING TO TSQ-73.) THIS CONVICTION PROMPTED LETTER QUOTED PARA TWO ABOVE.

5. PROBLEM, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY NOT SO EASY TO RESOLVE SINCE US ARMY HAS NEVER USED TPS-32 IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIR DEFENSE AND ANY CLUTTER MAPPER WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED SPECIALLY FOR USE IN KUWAIT. THIS WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE R&D, PROBABLY TAKE A NUMBER

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OF YEARS TO PERFECT, AND ITS COST MIGHT RUN AS HIGH AS \$500 THOUSAND.

6. MICOM IS SPONSORING COMPATIBILITY TESTS BETWEEN TSP-32 AND TSQ-73 TO BE CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LITTON AND ITT AT VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA FROM AUG 16-27. GOK IS, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT THESE TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND PRESUMABLY EXPECTS INVITATION TO SEND OBSERVERS. IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT KUWAITI OBSERVER DELEGATION

WOULD INCLUDE ONE OR MORE EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISERS SECONDED TO KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE.

7. THUS, MINDEF UNDERSEC'S LETTER NOT ONLY RAISES PROBLEM INVOLVING COMPATIBILITY OF THE TWO SYSTEMS GOK PROPOSE TO USE IN ITS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, BUT ALSO IMPACTS ON ROLE OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS WHICH EMBASSY APPRECIATES IS SUBJECT OF ACTIVE DISCUSSION. NEED FOR RESOLUTION OF LATTER PROBLEM HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE URGENT AND WILL AFFECT NATURE OF INVITATION EMBASSY SHOULD BE EXTENDING VERY SOON TO MINDEF TO SEND OBSERVERS TO ATTEND CALIFORNIA TESTS.

8. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF EGYPTIAN QUESTION AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THIS DECISION BE MADE NOW SO THAT EMBASSY COULD REPLY TO UNDERSEC'S LETTER WITH INVITATION TO SEND OBSERVERS TO CALIFORNIA COMPATIBILITY TESTS, THUS FINESSING, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, ANY DISCUSSION RE QUESTION OF CLUTTER MAPPER. DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE REACHED SOON IN ANY EVENT, IN ORDER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF IHAWK PROGRAM TO MOVE FORWARD.

9. HOPEFULLY, RESULTS OF TESTS WILL SUGGEST SOLUTION TO CLUTTER MAPPER PROBLEM. IN ANY EVENT, PLACE FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS PROBLEM AND WHAT USG WOULD DO ABOUT IT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE APPROPRIATELY IN US, POSSIBLY IN WASHINGTON WITH KUWAITI OBSERVERS FOLLOWING TESTS IN CALIFORNIA.

10. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ASAP.
MAESTRONE

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